Fron County Register

BY ELI D. AKE. IRONTON. - - MISSOURL

CURRENT TOPICS.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD.

PRESIDENT HAVES is reported to have said that he will sign the Deficiency bill as it passed the House, with Garfield's amendment providing for the equal apportionment of Deputy Marshals between the various parties.

THE Duchess of Marlborough has written a letter to the Lord Mayor of sanity. London, stating there is now no fear of THE Grand Shereef of Mecca has famine in Ireland, but that there is dire destitution in mountainous parts and on dressed as a Dervish. The agitation among the seacoast. There is great need of the Musselmans on account of the crime is clothing and seed.

THE United States Circuit Court has pronounced unconstitutional the law recently passed by the California Legislature forbidding the employment of Chinese by corporations chartered by the State.

GEN. GRANT and party arrived at Galveston, on the 23d, on the steamer City of Mexico. The General and his party were met at the pier by the Mayor and all the prominent officers of the city, and by Gen. Ord. A procession escorted him to his hotel, where in the evening a grand reception was held.

A RECENT dispatch from St. Petersburg says arrests continue to be made. Among those recently taken into custody are a number of employees of the Ministry of Ways and Communications and some thirty students. A census is being made of St. Petersburg, and all persons without fixed occupation or means of sustenance will be expelled from the city.

THE celebrated Maxwell land grant, comprising some 800,000 acres in all, of which 600,000 acres are in the northeast corner of New Mexico and the other 200,000 adjacent in Colorado, has been sold under foreclosure to an association of capitalists, who will at once proceed to develop the property.

THE Republican opponents of a thirdterm have called a National Mass Convention, to be held in St. Louis on May 6th. The movement grew out of the late anti-Grant meeting held in that city. at which ex-Senator Henderson made

tion was held at Austin on the 24th. Ex Gov. E. J. Davis presided. A resolution was adopted declaring Gen. Grant • the first choice of the Republicans of Texas, but deeming it inexpedient to instruct the delegates to the Notional Convention further than that they vote as a unit. The delegation is said to stand thirteen for Grant and three for Blaine-During the session of the Convention a telegram from Galveston was received, inviting the delegates to call in a body upon Gen. Grant, and the latter also sent a personal telegram to the Soldiers' Reunion, thanking them for their congratulatory address.

A WASHINGTON special of the 25th says: "The action of the House to-day, referring Mr. Townshend's bill to the Committee on Ways and Means, it is conceded, cut off all prospect of any tariff legislation during the present session. In their meeting to-day the Ways 20th of May. and Means Committee had a long discussion over the proceedings in the House for the last two days, and agreed, should such action be taken, as has since followed, that further steps would not be taken in the direction of changing the existing tariff laws. Representatives Wells and Tucker and the other Free Traders on the committee took issue on this subject, and declared that they would make an effort to report a measure which would at least secure a vote indicating the position of parties in the House on this question. They stated that upwards of ninety bills affecting the tariff have been introduced into the House during the present session, which is sufficient evidence of the opinions of a large portion of that body on this subject, and their opinions are entitled to some rec-

A PARTY of seventy-nine destitute children and sixteen adults left New York City on the 23d for homes in the West. They are sent by Whitelaw Reid, of the New York Tribune, at the expense of a wealthy benefactor whose name is not made public. The children, unaccompanied by parents, go to Burlington, Kansas, where homes will be procured for them in families of neighboring farmers. The families will go there are fair prospects of success is

GEN. GRANT has accepted invitations to visit Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark., naming the 12th of April as about the time he may be expected.

PROF. BARKER, of the University of Johns Hopkins University, and Profs. Brackett and Young, of Princeton College, recently accepted a commission from Edison to examine his plan of the 27th, by which miners James Reese and electric lighting, on condition that the report of their labors should men were in the mines at the time and esbe made public, whether favorable or caped more or less bruised and burned. not. For two weeks the laboratory machine-shop, and generator-room have been thrown open to them, and every parted her cables and went to pieces. The facility extended to them in prosecuting vessel was laden with 3,600 bales of cotton, their investigations. Their report will and was destined for Havre.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL

Samana, Santo Domingo, has been almost entirely destroyed by fire.

THE first through car to Port Royal, S. C., over the Cincinnati Southern Railway, with the Port Royal delegation from the

great railway celebration, arrived on the 21st, in thirty-four hours from Cincinnati. SAMUEL H. MYERS was hanged at Cleburne, Tex., on the 19th, for the murder

of Mrs. A. Hester, in February, 1877. JOHN QUINN, aged 53, a leader of the Fenian invasion of Canada in 1853, hanged himself at Buffalo, N. Y., on the 21st.

AT Marshall, Tex., on the 22d, Frank Lewis, proprietor of a boarding-house, poisoned his twelve-year old son and then took a fatal dose himself. Both died. Lewis had for some time exhibited symptoms of in-

been assassinated by a Persian fanatic,

AT Lawrenceville, Pa., on the 24th, Sidney Green killed his wife and then shot himself dead to avoid arrest. No cause

throughout the Eastern States, extending as far West as Ohio, on the 24th and 25th. Railroads were blocked in many localities.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on the 24th. Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice left for Germany on the day following.

MR. E. D. STANDIFORD has resigned the Presidency of the Louisville and. Nashville Railroad Company, on account of ill health. Mr. H. V. Newcomb, former Vice-President, succeeds him, and Mr. E. H. Green, former Second Vice-President, is promoted to fill the vacancy. It is stated that all differences between this company the Nashville and Chattanooga have been amicably adjusted.

THE Interior Department has been informed that a large number of Sitting Bull's band have applied at Fort Peck, for rations, offering to surrender their arms THE Texas Republican State Conven | and ponies. These surrenders, Secretary Schurz posts.

THE Rhode Island Democrats have nominated Horace M. Kimball for Gov-

THE Tennessee State Greenback Convention will be held at Nashville on the 27th of May, to select delegates to the Chicago Convention.

THE Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company has ceased to exist, its entire property and franchises having passed into the hands of the newly organized New York, SENATOR BALDWIN, of Michigan, referring to the Christiancy scandal, says tha both parties are more or less to blame, but not criminally so.

SENATOR TELLER has given notice of an amendment to the Ute Indian bill, providing for certain yearly allowances to Mrs. Meeker, her daughter and other sufferers by

THE Democratic State Convention of

Two Texas colored murderers were

DR. LECOMPTE and Capt. C. B. Western, 14th Infantry, engaged in a street duel at
Fort Douglass, Utah, the other day. Both
were wounded, and it is thought that Western will not recover. The difficulty is said to have been about a weman.

ANOTHER secret printing establishment has been discovered at St. Petersburg, and sixteen compositors engaged in it have

THE Colombians are said to be much that the American Government will oppose the construction of a canal by a foreign company. They say they want no protectorate, to different places in the West, where mit to neither without striking back as hard pany for the last two years, between Canon

> Eight persons, nearly all Mexicans, were recently massacred by Indians, sup-Santa Barbara, N. Mex.

THE United States Ship Constellation, laden with supplies for the poor of Ire-Pennsylvania, Prof. Roland, of the Commander Potter has discretionary orders menths. to land his cargo either at Kingstown, Queenstown or Galway.

> A FIRE-DAMP explosion occurred in James Work lost their lives. A number of DURING the recent severe storm in

form, lying outside of Galveston harbor destroyed. No lives were lost.

27th, Frank Simmons, a box-maker, had a quarrel with one Alford, an ex-Penitentiary convict, regarding a woman of bad repute, when Alford stabled Simmons in the neck.

killing him almost instantly. AT Springfield, Ill., on the 28th, Pat. rick Fenton, an employee in the rollingmills, beat his wife's brains out with a sledge-hammer. The circumstances of the crime indicate in anity.

EDGAR M. MARBLE, Law Officer Interior Department, will be appointed Commissioner of Patents, and J. G. McCammon will succeed Marble.

GEN. H. E. PAINE, Commissioner of Patents, has tendered his resignation on the ground that he can not well afford to hold an office which pays only \$4,500 a year.

FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

MARCH 23 .- Senate-The bill incorporating the National Educational Association was liscussed at some length, after which the Ge-Award bill was taken

discussed as a Dervish. The agitation among the Musselmans on account of the crime is said to be intense.

A NEGRO was recently lynched near Honeyville, Page County, Va., for killing a little son of his employer, at whom he had become enraged for some trivial offense.

Two young children of a colored man named Aaron Thompson, who lived in the second story of a small frame building in the western suburbs of St. Louis, were burned to death on the evening of the 23d. The explosion of a coal oil lamp in the apartment set fire to the building. A colored woman named Mrs. Kennon, who lived in the lower part of the house, made an heroic effort to save the children, but was unable to do so. She was badly burned.

The President has nominated James B. Angell, of Michigan, Minister to China, John F. Swift, of California, and William H. Trescot, of South Carolina, Commissioners to China to negotiate a treaty.

At Lawrenceville, Pa., on the 24th, Sidney Green killed his wife and then shot.

MARCH 24 .- Senate-The bill incorporatng a National Educational Association was taken up and opposed by Senator Carpenter as unconstutional. The morning hour expir-A SEVERE snow storm prevailed hroughout the Eastern States, extending as ar West as Ohio, on the 24th and 25th. Rail-oads were blocked in many localities.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on the Laws, shall be taken from that committee and Means of the committee and Mean referred to the Committee on Ways and Means presenting a question of privilege, Mr. Spring-er (D., Ill.) contended that the bill, having er (D., Ill.) contended that the bill, having been referred to the Committee on Revison of the Laws, could not be taken away from that committee and referred to any other without suspension of the rules. After considerable discussion and the raising of innumerable points of order, the question was submitted to the House, which decided (yeas 135, navs 98) that the question contained in Mr. McLane's proposition was one of privilege. Mr. McLane then demanded the previous question upon his resolution, when the Free traders began a series of filibustering tactics to prevent a vote. Which lasted until midtraders began a series of industring tractes to prevent a vote, which lasted until mid-night, the Sergeant-at-Arms being kept busy in drumming up absentees and bringing them into the House. Finally, after an understand-ing that a direct vote should be had to-mor row at noon, the House adjourned.

MARCH 25 .- Senate-Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, introduced a joint resolution providing for a commission to consider and rt what legislation is needed for a b was continued, the motion under considera-tion being to correct the journal and refer the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means instead of the Committee on Revision of the Laws. After a long and heated discussion th motion was carried—yeas, 142; nays, 89.

MARCH 26 .- Senate-Not in session House-The entire session was consumed in considering bills of a private nature.

MARCH 27 .- Senate-Not in session House-Mr. Scales, Chairman of the Com mittee on Indian Affairs, reported back the resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information as to any frauds or corupt practices on the part of any employees of the Indian service since the 1st of July, 1877, also a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior for copies of the testimony taken by Gens. Hatch and Adams touching the late outbreak. Both were adopted. A number of bills were received and referred. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.

MARCH 29 .- Senate - Messrs. Allison and Minnesota has been called at St. Paul on the Teller gave notice of the proposed amendment to the bill ratifying the Ute agreement. Ordered printed. Mr. Eaton, from the Com-Jack Moss.

At St. Louis, on the 26th, Jacob Frey, an Alsatian, cut his wife's throat and then his own. Both were taken to the hospital and both may recover. The old couple had quarreled a good deal about money matters, and this is the only known cause for the crime.

Homer Wellington, the wealthy young merchant of Cambridge, Mass., who was arrested a few days ago on suspicion of having poisoned his wife and child, by reason of being infatuated with another woman, has confessed that he poisoned his wife, but denies having poisoned his child.

DR. LECOMPTE and Capt. C. B. West—

be shall communicate the fact to the Senate, which shall determine which, if either, of the State. Mr. Robertson (D., La.) introduced a bill for strengthening the Mich. Mr. King (D., La.), from the Committee on Epidemic Diseases, reported a bill to increase the efficacy of the National Board of Health. Mr. McGowan (R., Mich.), from the same committee. tion bill.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

JUSTICE MILLER, of the United States Supreme Court, has signed decrees exercised over reports from Washington terminating the case and Receivership and restoring its road to the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company; also turning over the entire line which has been in dispute neither French nor American, and will sub- with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Com-City and Leadville, to the Denver and Rio Grande Company, and dismissing all suits. The compromise thus perfected is based on posed to be a portion of Victorio's band, near a treaty of peace for ten years between the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, the Union and Kansas Pacific and the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Companies and their subsidiary companies. The line to Leadville land, sailed from New York on the 27th. will now be completed in two or three

THE Chilian Legation at Washington has received a cablegram from Panama stat-Thomason's coal mines at Fairmont, Va., on 14,000 Chilians, and that no fighting ocing that Morguegua has been occupied by curred. Arica was bombarded for three days by the Chilian navy, during which time

onsiderable damage was done on land. earthquake at Tokio on the 22d of February, the Gulf of Mexico the Norwegian ship Reduring which many houses were injured or

THREE daughters of Silas Gaun, aged fifteen, seventeen and nineteen years rebe looked for with great interest.

Ar Louisville, Ky., on the night of the spectively, were drowned recently, by the sinking of a skiff in Dallas County, Mo.

The Paradise of Insects.

None but those who have traveled on the Upper Amazons can have any idea of the number and voracity of the insect torments which work their wicked will on the bodies of the unfortunates exposed to their attacks. The "sancu-dos," or small sand-flies, form by far the most important section. In the villages, round which the forest is cleared away for some distance, the sancudos are generally pretty quiet during the day, except where darkness prevails; there they are ever busy, and are a perfect plague. The triumphant note of a sancude which has made his way under your curtain is more annoying than even his bite; and should you have been careless in getting into bed, and been accompanied by two or three of these blood-suckers, we will defy you to sleep until you have exterminated them.

In the forest and on the river the sancudes are always busy. Men sometimes get into the vessel's tops, and there cover themselves with sacks, notwithstanding the heat, rather than remain below exposed to their attacks. Fortunately they can not stand a current of air, and so when under way the vessel is comparatively free from them, but when at anchor these pests are something awful. To get rid of them is next of transportation. The light character to impossible. Creosote will keep them of many seeds well adapts them to floatoff, but the remedy is as bad as the disease. Whitewash will drive them away, but when dry its power ceases; and the only thing to do is either to cover all exposed parts of the body with black pigment a la mode Indienne, or else to "grin and bear it."

Scarcely less troublesome than the sancudos are the mosquitoes, although they have the negative merit of biting only by day. They are minute creatures, not much larger than a pin's head; they prefer the backs of the hands to any other spot for their attacks. But, unlike the sancude, which, when undisturbed, gorges himself until unable to fly, and becomes an easy prey to your avenging finger, the mosquito never seems to take too much to prevent his easy escape on the slightest appearance of danger, being evidently just as wide-awake when full as when empty.

as to be almost imperceptible, but which fastens on the legs, causing the most intolerable itching.

There is a fly which burrows in the skin and deposits an egg, both in hu-man beings and animals. This produces a maggot, similar in shape to that | Many seeds of fruits are swallowed by of the common blow-fly, but much birds and carried to distant places and larger, probably analogous to the Gui-

Then there are "chigos," which burrow mostly in the soles of the feet. You feel an intense itching, and on examination find a little thing like a pea try. During an invasion of the Rocky just under the epidermis; this is the bag mountain locusts into Iowa a few years containing the young chigos, which must be carefully picked out with the point of a knife, and the cavity left filled with

Huge spiders abound, whose very appearance inspires a wholesome dread of nearer acquaintance, but which are harmless enough if let alone. In fact, on board the steamers, almost every cabin is tenanted by one large spider, whose presence is tolerated on account of his being a deadly foe to cockroaches. which abominable creatures swarm on board. Sometimes he is not visible for a fortnight or more at a time; but he leaves tokens of " having been there," in the shape of the empty husks of cock-roaches, from which he has carefully abstracted the interior. These spiders have the power of springing upon their prey from a distance, and some of them are so large and powerful as to kill and devour small birds.

In passing through the narrow forest paths it is necessary to be on the lookout for the wood-ticks, which are very difficult to get rid of if once firmly attached; also for the huge black ants, an inch and a half in length, with stings like a hornet's; and the sauba ant, without sting, but armed with nippers like a pair of surgical bone-forceps, which are running about every where. One may sometimes chance upon a column of the dreaded "fire-ants," marching in regular military order; and if he does, the only thing is to bolt at once. for neither man nor beast may withstand the fire-ant and live. When at length the traveler stops to rest, he must take care to examine the camping ground to see that neither centipede nor scorpion

Frequently both centipedes and seorpions are found on the steamers, introduced no doubt, in the wood used for fuel. One day while the writer was watching the hands taking wood from canoes alongside, from one of the logs oitched on board was dislodged a scorpion, which fell on the naked left arm of a man keeping tally at the gangway. Astonished by his sudden flight through the air, the animal remained perfectly still. The man never moved a muscle, and quietly raising his right hand, flip-ped it away with his fingers and thumb. It was very neatly and coolly done; and he thus escaped a sting, which he no doubt would have received had he tried Young People.

Distribution of Plants.

The world is full of wonders to every one who has not made up his mind to be tion. The wise adaptation of means to ends, and the beautiful harmony that exists throughout all the realm of organic nature, lead the mind, free from bias, to the inference that some wise, intelligent power orders and governs all these relations and harmonies. Perhaps nowhere in nature is there a more manifest ex-

the idea intended to be conveyed by the other Masons.

term. In the sense intended it is perfectly absurd to attribute this or any other work to chance, for in that sense chance is nothing, and consequently can do nothing. So we regard it as the result of evolution; but I can not see that this relieves the difficulty, even if the truth of the theory of evolution be admitted. Evolution is simply the working out of certain results under the operation of law. But what is this law? It is not correct to say that it is force though I may think many make this mistake. Law is only the established order or manner in which force operates; so that if we admit the intervention of law and a thousand or ten thousand second ary causes, still this law must have originated with a lawgiver, and behind all these secondary causes the mind must rest at last on the first cause, the author of all other causes. But I did not start out to write a moral or philosophical essay, but to call attention to some of nature's method of distributing the vegetable kingdom over the world. In producing these results we find three classes of agents at work: the waters, the winds, and animals, besides certain arrangements within the plants themselves for the accomplishment of this purpose. And we find the seeds themselves adapted to these different means ing from place to place, while their impervious coverings protect them while being carried long distances by the currents of the ocean or of rivers, and then when they lodge on some island or other shore they readily spring up and grow. What, for instance, can be better adapted to floating from island to island than the tough, corky covering of the cocoanut? The seeds of grasses and

thus widely distributed. The seeds of many plants, as of the dandeloin, thistle, and a long list of similar plants, are furnished with a tuft of downy or silky pappus, that will enable them, when ripe, to float away on the breeze and thus be scattered far and wide. The seeds of some species of poplar, as cottonwood, are attached to a bunch of cotton that serves as a buoy Everywhere in long grass lurks the to bear them up through the air, by "moquim," a little red insect so small means of which they are frequently carried many miles from the parent tree. Seeds are often disseminated through animal agency. Animals frequently carry seeds and nuts away and bury them for winter food, where they are

higher grounds by streams, and they are

forgotten and left to grow. voided uninjured, and there spring up and grow. Thus the seeds of cherries. grapes, gooseberries, blackberries, and many others of like nature, are sown broadcast over a large extent of counwhich they had brought from the far Northwest. Many seeds are provided with hooked barbs, by which they cling to clothing and the coats of animals,

and are carried about from place to place. Many people are familiar with the cockle burr, the Spanish needle, the "beggar lice," and burdock, and how tenaciously they adhere to any surface where they can get a hold. To this we may add the sand burr (Cenchrus tribuloides), with its sharp spines, one of the most execrable weeds I have made the acquaintance of. Some seeds, as of the maple, ash, elm, etc., are furnished with a wing that causes them to sail off some distance in falling. The locust, Judas tree, or redbud, and others, have a light pad that will often sail off to a considerable distance, thus scattering their

Some kinds of bean have the pod so arranged that when it bursts it suddenly twists into a coil, throwing the seeds a considerable distance. This habit in the Impatiens, or touch-me-not, geranium, etc., is well known. The squirting cucumber (Momordica elaterium), when ripe, bursts with a considerable report.

throwing its seeds many feet.

A few plants, when their seeds are ripe, travel over the country and sow them themselves. A good example of this kind is the "tumble weed," about the true name of which the doctors disagree. Two species grow here; the larger, which is the tumble weed here, grows in a thick cluster of very slender branches, and these so numerous that the bunch, which is often as big as a hogshead, can scarcely be seen through: When ripe they are torn from the roots by the wind, and then they roll and tumble, often with the speed of a racehorse, till they meet an obstruction that they can not surmount, and there they rest till the wind changes, and then they start again; and this is kept up till they are worn out and brok-en to pieces. Their seeds are thus

scattered over all the country. A plant that grows on the deserts of Africa, the rose of Jericho (Anastatica heirochuntica), when ripe, curls into a a ball, becomes detached from the soil, and rolls about before the wind till a light shower of rain falls, when it opens to brush it hastily away.—Harper's its seed and pods and drops its seeds, which germinate in about eighteen hours. The wisdom of the arrange-ment here is seen when we remember that if it remained where it grew the whole plant would be covered the drifting sands, and that if its seeds did not astonished at nothing he may see. To germinate quickly, while the transient the thoughtful mind there is much in moisture lasted, they never could grow nature to inspire wonder and admira- at all. Thus does nature care for her children.—Rev. J. L. Templin, Hutchin-son, Kansas, in Gardener's Monthly.

Four Chinamen recently appeared before the Supreme Court in New York as the incorporators of "Long We Tong Eng Wi," which was discovered to mean "The Order and Brotherhood of Masons." hibition of wisdom in the adaptation of means to the accomplishment of a worthy purpose, than is seen in the various methods employed by nature for the dissemination of plants by the distribution of seeds.

"Incorder and Brothernood of Masons with a view of the discovery of so-called Masonic emblems under our "Cleopatra's needle," and the consequent discussion of the authority of Masonry, this curious fact was investigated, and the Chinese incorporators In looking at this subject with an intelligent eye, the mind can not shut out the conviction that some intelligent designer must have been employed in planning this scheme that has so much of both excellence and variety to recommend it to the judgment. To say that all this is to be attributed to chance, is to endow chance with all the attributes of a Deity, which is the very reverse of the idea intended to be conveyed by the

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

-Salt codfish should be sold under

the name of dry goods. —The hornet and mule are too tender-hearted to look upon suffering. They always turn their back when they strike. -"The darky's hour is just before the dawn," remarked Sambo, when he start-ed out before daybreak to steal a young

chicken. —They let dogs play with human bones in the by streets of St. Louis, but of course not until after it is known that they are the bones of some man from Chicago.—Detroit Free Press.

-A furnishing goods dealer is about to introduce some new cravats. They are made of Indian stuff, and he calls them "Poncas," because they are Bright ties.—Boston Commercial Bulletin. -"That's what I call a finished ser-

mon," said a lady to her husband, as they wended their way from church. "Yes," was the reply; "but, do you know, I thought it never would be." -James Dodge kept a grocery in a

Pennsylvania town twenty-five years and never once put a line in the local papers regarding his business. He said he did not propose to have people call him an advertising Dodge.—Rome Sentenet. -An exchange refers to the language of the postage stamp. But we do not think the postage stamp has any language that expresses any thing. If it had, we believe it would holler "enough"

when it is licked .- Keokuk Gate City. -This Cinainnati criticism on "The Pirates of Penzance" will be appreciated by those who have seen the piece. and remembered by those who are yet to see it: "The thin pirate with a ter-rific mustache had his right calf on other plants are washed down from the

wrong side out." -They were sitting together Sunday evening, with an album or two between them, when she pleasantly asked, "How would you like to have my mother live with you?" In just fifteen seconds he had his hat down half way over his face, and was bolting through the gate .-

Danbury News. -A Vermont man who tried to walk on snow-shoes contrived to get the barndoor off its hinges, tear down three rods of fence and get stuck, head down, in a drift, before his wife could find breath to tell him that he was a great awkward lout. Snow shoes are not such easy things to handle.

—When a Massachusetts woman wants to know which lodge her husband attended on a given night, she goes on a round of charity calls until she finds the hat that he exchanged for a much poorer one, hanging in a hallway. Then there is the warmth of a summer day, and he has to endure it.

The Perilous Puzzle.

While we whirl away on the Atlantic & Great Western, the only road in free America that is as broad as it is long, worked out the fifteen puzzle?"

I tell him, with a nameless gratitude in my voice, that I have done almost every thing else that is foolish and wicked, but I have never become addicted to the fifteen puzzle.

Then he pulled one out of his pocket and settled down to it. Long and patiently he wrought, while the other passengers helped with suggestions and criticisms. Presently the brakeman came in, and he leaned over the shoulders of the crowd and looked on and assisted. By and by the conductor came along shouting "tikts," and he stopped to see what was the excitement. He pushed his punch in his pocket, and leaned up with the rest of the crowd and told the fat passenger what to do. The excitement ran high, and half a dozen bitter disputes arose, which were only quelled by bitterer ones arising over new points. The train sped on its thundering way, and in due time it slowed up a little and finally stopped. The conductor looked up impatiently.

"What in thunder," he said, "is "Water, I reckon, or coal may be,"

replied the brakeman, without looking up from the puzzle. "Go out and see what he wants and tell him to go on, " said the conductor, returning to the puzzle.

The brakeman, after a feeble protest, and one last, lingering look at the puz-zle, which was now farther than ever from completion, went out. In the space of a minute he came back into the car and shouted, in a husky whispered, ghost of a shout:

"Meadville! Change cars for Oil City and Franklin! This train stops twenty minutes for dinner!" A wail of rage and disappointment filled the car. "Why didn't this train stop at Atlantie?" roared the passenger with the

sandy goatee.
"I wanted to get off at Evansburg?" howled the man with the sam-

"My sister wanted to get on at Atlantic, and I saw her on the platform when we came through," shouted the woman who talks bass.
"And I," sobbed a timid-looking

young man in black clothes, "was to have been married to a girl in Geneva to-day, and now I'll bet you a cow her old dad is walking down the railroad-track in this direction with a shot-gun." And he wailed so pitifully that the whole car howled in sympathetic unison.

Just then the express messenger came storming into the cosch

storming into the coach.

"By chowder," he yelled, "I'd just like to know what this means? I'd like

to know if the Express Company has any rights on this road at all, and how a man is going to deliver or receive packages when..."

And the mail agent pushed him out of the way and stood before the conductor in all the gorgeous panoply of half dress and half working uniform.

"By George," he shouted, "the Government shall be informed of this outrageous proceeding. If there's a special agent in the State of Pennsylvania he will be—"

ton Hawkeye